

Worker abandoned by electrical firm dies, family kicks

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Isaac Olawuyi

Samson Folarin

Sixty-four-year-old Isaac Olawuyi, who had been in a coma for four days after suffering an electric shock on the premises of John Holt Plc where he worked as a casual worker, has died.

Isaac died around 6pm on Wednesday as he was being rushed to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja.

The family blamed the company for his death, saying the firm allegedly delayed in attending to his health until it was too late.

PUNCH Metro had reported on Thursday that Isaac had worked for about 10 years at the Oregun, Ikeja office of John Holt Plc.

Our correspondent reported that he was fixing an electrical fault on May 29, when he suffered an electric shock.

He was said to have reported at the office for three consecutive days, appealing for medical help without success.

He was said to be preparing to take his medication last Sunday when he collapsed and went into a coma.

His son, Biodun, reportedly visited the Victoria Island office of the company for financial help, but the company's Human Resources Manager, one Nkam, advised him to move his father to a general hospital.

He was being moved to the general hospital on Wednesday when he died.

Biodun, while lamenting his father's death, said he died en route to the general hospital and was confirmed dead by a doctor at LASUTH.

He said, "When I spoke with you yesterday (Wednesday) he was still at the private hospital. When we couldn't raise the N40,000 medical bill, we begged the hospital's management to allow us move him to the general hospital and promised to pay back.

"After they agreed, we had to arrange a car that would help us move him, and that took some time. When we finally got one, we had barely got to Oko-Oba Agege, when he gave up.

"We still wanted to be sure and we got him down to LASUTH, where a doctor confirmed him dead."

Biodun said the family took the corpse home because it could not afford the mortuary fee, adding that he would be buried on Thursday evening (yesterday).

He described as “wicked” the attitude of the company to his father, blaming the company’s HRM for being uncaring.

He explained that the family later learnt that provision had been made for his father to be taken to one of the company’s private hospitals, but the HRM allegedly did not inform his father.

Biodun said, “A very reliable source told the family that a week after that electric shock, the company approved that my father should be taken to one of its private hospitals, but the HRM did not call to inform my father.

“When I visited the company on Monday to tell her that the private hospital we were using had said we should transfer him to a general hospital and they would not release him until we pay our N40,000 bill, she didn’t tell me anything about the provision.

“I sent a text message to the General Manager of the company yesterday (Wednesday) that we needed to settle my father’s bill and he said he was told we had hired the press to embarrass them, but I said no.

“He asked me to send the bill to him. I was about doing that in the car while we were taking my dad to the hospital when he died.”

When our correspondent called John Holt’s HRM, Nkam, on the phone and told her Isaac was dead, she screamed.

When *PUNCH Metro*, however, raised the allegations against her and the company, she laughed and said, “I won’t comment on Olawuyi’s issue again. I won’t, okay? I am not even in a position to comment. Thank you very much.”

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